



University of Nebraska at Omaha's Student Newspaper  
Since 1913

Friday Edition



PRIZE WINNING  
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Issue 27

## Police Professionalism Initiative at UNO tackles issues of police accountability

MARION RHODES

News editor

UNO's Police Professionalism Initiative co-sponsored a conference in New York City last week to compare international perspectives on police accountability.

The conference, which featured experts from the United States, Latin America and Europe, was organized by the initiative to share experiences and help other countries develop better ways to ensure police accountability, said Samuel Walker, a criminal justice professor at UNO and Police Professionalism Initiative coordinator.

Other sponsors were the United Nations and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

"I see this as a way of sharing what we know," Walker said. "Compared with these other countries, the United States has a lot to teach them."

Organizing the conference was just one of the projects the initiative is working on. The initiative, which is funded through a \$1-million grant from the U.S. Congress that was awarded to UNO's Criminal Justice Department last year, seeks to improve areas of neglect within the police.



photo by Chris Machian

*The conference's main focus lies on developing professional standards for police agencies and improving police relations with racial and ethnic minorities.*

Its main focus lies on developing professional standards for police agencies and improving police relations with racial and ethnic minorities.

A group of faculty members and students work on individual projects that identify a previously un-addressed issue, discuss it and produce a report designed to get other people thinking about the

issue, Walker said.

"Our goal, mainly, is to play a catalyst role," he said. "We can't do all the work."

Within its first year at UNO, the initiative has published 11 reports, sponsored two national conferences,

see POLICE, page 2

## UNO hopes to establish School of Communication

MARION RHODES

News editor

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents will decide Saturday if UNO's Department of Communication should be restructured into a School of Communication.

The Regents' approval would be the most important step toward such an effort, which has been a goal of the department for 30 years, said Communication Department Chair Deborah Smith-Howell.

Currently, UNO has three schools – Social Work, Health, Physical Education and Recreation and Public Administration. The size, complexity and range of activities of the Department of Communication establish it more as a school than a department, especially since it awards more degrees and offers more programs than any of the other schools, Smith-Howell said.

"People in general don't understand how one department can offer so many kinds of majors," she said. "We think that [a school] better reflects who we are."

Undergraduate programs in the department include speech communication, journalism and broadcasting. The journalism major includes concentrations in print journalism and public relations, while the broadcasting major is split up into broadcast journalism and new media.

"When I start going out to research anything that looks like us, it's usually not in departments. It's in schools or colleges," Smith-Howell said.

see SCHOOL, page 15

## First two finalists chosen for vice chancellor position

MARION RHODES

News editor

The University of Nebraska at Omaha announced Tuesday that two finalists for the vice chancellor for academic and student affairs position have been selected.

John Christensen and Sona Andrews were selected from about 50 applicants from all over the United States.

Christensen has served in the position as interim vice chancellor since Derek Hodgson, who previously held the position, left to take a position as president at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in June.

Andrews serves as vice provost at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Shelton Hendricks, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chair of the search committee, said it is likely that one or two more finalists will be selected.

Christensen and Andrews will introduce themselves to the campus community in open forums next week.



Sona Andrews



John Christensen

While the final decision on the appointment is up to the NU Board of Regents, students, faculty and staff members are asked to make recommendations to Chancellor Nancy Belck, who will then recommend a candidate to the president's office before the decision goes to the Regents.

"We hope to have someone in place by early next year," Hendricks said.

Christensen has served in various positions at UNO since 1978. He was named dean of the College of Education in 1999. Earlier this semester, he was appointed interim vice chancellor for academic and student affairs until a permanent candidate has been found.

Christensen has a doctorate degree in speech pathology/audiology from the University of Kansas, a master's degree in special education/speech pathology from UNO and a bachelor's degree in speech communications and drama from Dana

see FINALISTS, page 15

### SWEET SEASONS

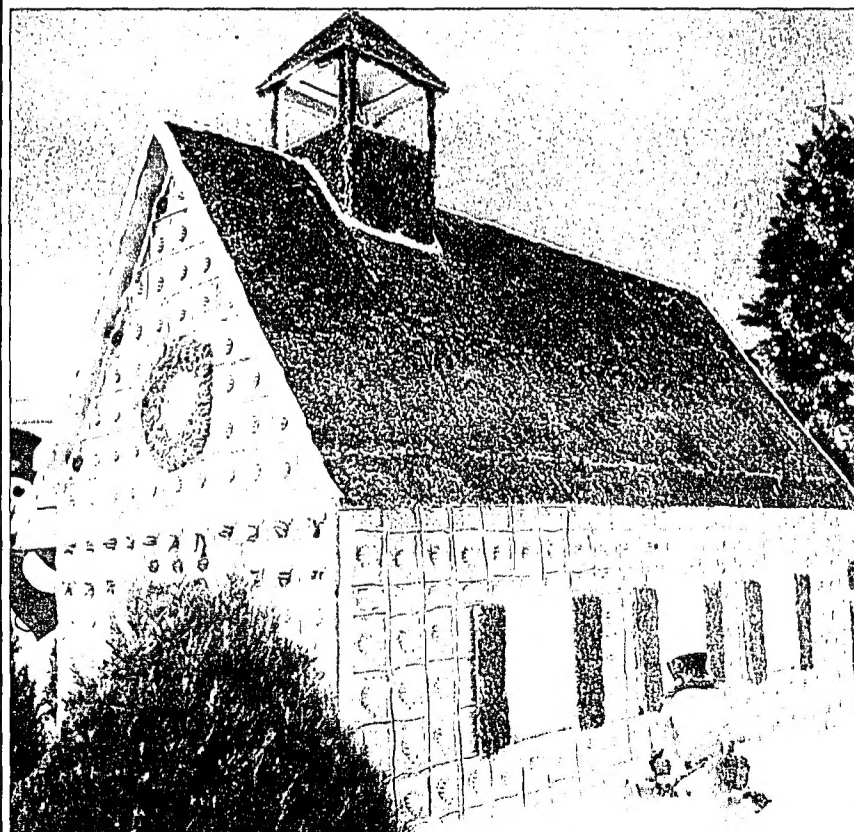


photo by Josh Williamson

Giant gingerbread houses 3 feet tall establish residence inside the UNO Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom Wednesday. The houses were part of the Campus Holiday Open House.

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talent to UNO hockey

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SPORTS



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# Holiday Edition



Gateway to the West



## from POLICE, page 1

provided technical assistance to Nebraska agencies and national organizations and published five scholarly articles, reports or books.

Projects the researchers are working on deal with citizen oversight of police, police officer's use of force, early intervention systems, mediating citizen complaints, risk management of policing, consent decrees and racial profiling.

As part of one project, Walker said, they are about to send out a survey to 4,000 members of the National Latino Peace Officers Association to assess how they feel about their jobs. He said such a survey has never been done before.

UNO's Police Professionalism Initiative grant will run out in 2004. Until then, the researchers will focus on generating more publications, Walker said. Walker is currently working on a book on police accountability, "The New World of Police Accountability," which he plans to complete within the next couple of months.

"We're mid-stream now, just completing some of the projects we started," he said.

## Campus groups collect for charity

CARRIE ZAAVER

Senior staff writer

It's the season to give and UNO's clubs and organizations aren't holding back.

Several organizations are holding fundraising activities for charities this year.

The Student Recreation and Leisure Society is collecting donations of sporting equipment through Dec. 21 for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Omaha. The organization is seeking equipment for football, kickboxing, volleyball and cheerleading, as well as any other sporting equipment or monetary gifts.

Dan Bagley, graduate student member of the Student Recreation and Leisure Society, said the holiday season is only part of the reason for this particular charity drive. He said the Boys and Girls Clubs have had a hard time getting toys and equipment.

"The recession has been extremely tough for non-profit organizations," he said. "We have set out to make things better for those kids."

This is the first year that the society has done this project, Bagley said. Donations can be submitted to the main

office of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building.

Another program, which is collecting canned food for the Omaha Food Bank, is the Staff Advisory Council's "Jeans for Food" program.

UNO faculty and staff can wear casual clothes to work any day until the semester break in exchange for a can of food.

This is the second year for the program, and all students and employees are encouraged to donate to the Food Bank.

The Public Relations Student Society of America and the Ad Club are participating in the "Toys for Tots" campaign.

New, unwrapped toys can be left in the boxes outside of the Communications Department offices in Rooms 108 and 110 of the Arts and Science Hall.

This is the first year that PRSSA has been involved with "Toys for Tots," said Karen Weber, PRSSA advisor.

Weber said the students gain professional public relations experience as well as helping out the community through the drive.

"The students work together in



photo by Josh Williamson

**Vince Drieling and Christine Didamo pile up donations in the Student Government office during a past charity collection.**

planning and launching the campaign, designing publicity materials and writing news releases to create awareness for the project on campus," Weber said.

Donations will be accepted through today.

## Campus Crime Log

MARION RHODES

News editor

### Wednesday, Nov. 26

11:50 p.m. Visitor reported vandalism to vehicle parked in Lot I.

10:53 p.m. Student reported theft from vehicle parked in Lot I.

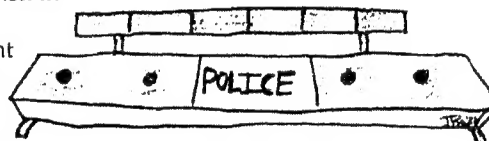
### Saturday, Nov. 29

6:50 p.m. Campus Security discovered vandalism to private vehicle parked in Lot Q.

7:45 p.m. Visitor reported theft of personal property from vehicle parked

in Lot Q.

8:01 p.m. Student reported theft of personal property from vehicle parked in Lot Q.



### Sunday, Nov. 30

2 a.m. Campus Security responded to a noise complaint at University Village.

### Monday, Dec. 1

11:35 p.m. Faculty member reported vandalism to a room in Allwine Hall

### Tuesday, Dec. 2

2:45 p.m. Student reported theft from vehicle parked in Lot I.

### Thursday, Dec. 4

7:30 a.m. Student reported theft of personal property from Milo Bail Student Center.

### Sunday, Dec. 7

4 p.m. Student reported a suspicious person in Lot L at 2 a.m.

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Since 1913

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## ATTENTION ALL INTERNATIONAL F&J VISA STATUS STUDENTS

**If you have insurance NOT from UNO,  
your plan must be reviewed by Marcia  
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**Otherwise, you will be billed for UNO  
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**Student Health Services is located in  
MBSC, first floor.**

## Holiday songs bring music to the winter air

BECKY BOYER

Staff writer

"Ruff/ruff/ruff, Ruff/ruff/ruff, Ruff/ruff/woof/woof/ruff." If you

recognize these lyrics, they are from the first verse of "Jingle Bells" as sung by Britney Spears.

Well, not really. It was actually "sung" by the Singing Dogs.

Holiday songs seem to permeate the atmosphere at this time of year. Many people have a favorite song they associate with Christmas or a holiday song they just really like.

Some songs have interesting stories behind them. For instance, "Jingle Bells" is not as much of a Christmas song as it seems to be. According to [www.phillyburbs.com/christmascarols/](http://www.phillyburbs.com/christmascarols/), "Jingle Bells" is not really a Christmas song at all. Rather, it is more like a drag racing song of the earlier years. Back then, people raced sleighs instead of cars.

Another interesting fact found on that site is that "Rudolph the Red-

Nosed Reindeer" was originally created as a promotional gimmick for Montgomery Ward department stores. The site lists some alternative names Rudolph could have ended up with — Rollo or Reginald.

People have many different tastes and interests in music. When asked about her favorite Christmas or holiday song, Samantha Alba named "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." Alba said she likes the song because it has a "catchy tune."

Most holiday songs do have a catchy tune so people never forget them.

Nick Wzorek likes a remix of the song "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." He said he

likes this song because he can "become a grinch after

working at the mall for a while."

"Silent Night" is Channa Rench's favorite

Christmas song. She said she likes the song because it is always sung at the end of the Christmas Night church service she attends and it gets people into the Christmas spirit.

Abbie Farrens' favorite Christmas music comes from the Willie Nelson *Pretty Paper* album. She's enjoyed the music found on the album since she was a young girl. She would often listen to the album during Christmas time and it has sentimental value for her.

Christmas or holiday songs are so popular for many reasons. Whether you like Rudolph or the Grinch, the holiday spirit is all around us until January.

Music is in the air; it is one thing that brings people together at this time of the year when so many people need a little cheer.

## Holidays and history await at Crook House

VALERIE CUTSHALL

Senior staff writer

Want to mix the holidays with a little history? Visit the General Crook House and experience what it looked like to celebrate the holidays in the late 1800s.

The holiday decorations were unveiled Nov. 9. The General Crook House festively displays eight rooms decorated with dried flowers, evergreens, beads and handcrafted and lace ornaments. The house displays authentic decorations from when the house was built in 1879. Hot cider and cookies will be served to visitors.

"The Crook Guild decorates the house every year," said Gary Rosenberg, administrative coordinator at the house. "It is a big project for the women involved with the guild. The visitors expect the decorations to be here and they come to see how the decorations have changed through the years."

The General Crook House was refurbished in 1976 and a year later, Metropolitan Community College moved its campus near the house, Rosenberg said. The General Crook House Museum has been restored to its authentic condition. General Crook was a Civil War and National Indian Wars hero and is considered the "greatest Indian fighter in the history of the United States," according to the General Crook House Web site.

The Douglas County Historical Society is located at Historic Fort Omaha, which is now the campus of Metropolitan Community College, at 30th and Fort Streets.

The General Crook House hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission to the house is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12, \$4 for students and free for members. For more information, contact the General Crook House at 455-9990.

# Have a great semester break!

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# The Prairie Nutcracker debuts in Omaha

ANDREW CUMBEE

Staff writer

Everyone has seen or at least heard the story of the original Nutcracker ballet. The Russian ballet, which is considered to have been overdone and sometimes difficult for Americans to interpret, now has an heir to the ballet throne.

So now, Omahans can enjoy a more familiar version as the classic story comes to Omaha later this month in the performance of *The Prairie Nutcracker*.

Now instead of taking place in the late 1900s in Russia, the story takes place in America in the 1900s.

In 2001, Betsie Andrews and her dance company set out to recreate the classic ballet. The subsequent change attracted Rick Kuethe, a composer originally from Omaha. He talked Andrews into letting him change Tchaikovsky's original music and he added some of his own. Then a whole new ballet was born.

This year, Julian Adair decided to take the show to

Omaha with the help of her own dance company and also some students from Andrews' company.

*The Prairie Nutcracker* is about a family from the East who has recently immigrated to a military fort in the frontier. When the daughter falls asleep, she dreams of American prairie life in the 1800s, which in the original was sugar plum fairies. Even the nutcracker is no longer there; in his place there is now a frontier soldier.

The show will debut in Omaha on Dec. 20 and 21 at Omaha Central High School. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and senior citizens. There is also a pre-event patron party. Supporters can talk to the cast while enjoying a Prairie Nutcracker boutique. Prices include tickets to the show and are \$35 for singles and \$50 for couples.

Omaha's debut of *The Prairie Nutcracker* was featured in USA Today newspaper.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 551-4200.

# Parcademy Awards 2003

J. PARKER ADAIR

Senior staff writer

Ladies and Gentlemen: Everyone seems to have their own awards show at the end of the year, so I thought that I'd get a jump on the competition and bring to you the only awards that matter. May I present...(drum roll)...the Parcademy Awards! (Audience Clapping).

Hosted by Billy Crystal, of course.

**Best movie about a white rap singer who was raised from the trailer to be a success with a song that has something to do with spaghetti:**

Eminem-8 Mile

**Worst Rap Song of the Year:**

Garth Brooks "Friends in Ghetto Places"

**Best Performance by a female who would be extremely attractive if she weren't underage:**

Hillary Duff-Lizzie McGuire

**Best computer animated feature action film about The chosen one who is transformed into a fish and must save the world:**

Finding Neo: The Matrix Reflushed

**Best performance by a**



Paris Hilton

**no-talent tennis starlet who once dated a pop star named Enrique (formerly referred to as "The-only-way-to-meet-her-is-to-give-her-this-crummy award"):**

Anna Koumikova

**Best comedic motion picture:**

Freddy vs. Jason

**Outstanding Documentary sequel of Middle Earth:**

Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

**Worst country song of the year:**

Dr. Dre "Ain't nothin' but a hick thang"

**Outstanding Achievement in lighting design:**

The 2003 Blackout

**Most intriguing, yet wholly unimpressive actress in an amateur adult film:**

Paris Hilton-The Nightvision Bootleg copy.

**Lifetime achievement in international peacekeeping:**

Tie between George Bush and...George W. Bush

**Worst music album reviewed by a Gateway staff member:**

Barenaked Ladies-

Everything to Everyone

**Worst Chick Flick of the year:**

Anything with Hugh Grant  
**Best Performance by a dog in music:**

Courtney Love followed closely by Triumph the Insult Comic Dog. Also receiving votes was Snoop Doggy Dogg.

**Best sequel to a Tommy Lee Jones film:**

Sequel to *The Missing: The Found*

**Most Patriotic Song of the Year:**

"God Bless President Bush" The Dixie Chicks



# Happy Holidays!

Milo Bail Student Center  
601 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68182

# 'Tis the season for online shopping

DAWN C. CHMIELEWSKI

Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

The founders of Boo, the European fashion site that came to symbolize dot-com excesses after its collapse in 2000, may have been on to something.

No, we're not talking about burning through \$100 million of somebody else's money, jetting around on the Concorde and cavorting in Parisian nightclubs with Brazilian supermodel Gisele. Although that would certainly be fun.

We're talking about consumers' willingness to buy clothes online — and a surprising array of other products, too, such as cosmetics, jewelry, sporting goods and house wares. This is what dot-goners like Boo, eToys.com and FragranceCounter.com died waiting for: the year Internet shopping goes mainstream.

Now, online holiday shopping mirrors the scene at the mall — only with better hours and no parking hassles. For the first time, women shoppers outnumber men online. They're looking to fill their shopping carts with items other than the stereotypical online fare of books, CDs and consumer electronics. And they're hunting for bargains.

Just like the real world.

And just like the mall, online retail is getting pretty crowded. About 39 million American households shop online — including the 5 million new shoppers who are expected to join the one-click crowd this year, according to Forrester Research in Cambridge, Mass.

The changing profile of the online shopper, together with their sheer

numbers, is leading analysts to offer unusually cheery forecasts for the six-week holiday buying season that began the Friday after Thanksgiving. Analysts project seasonal online sales of \$12.2 billion to \$16.8 billion — a jump of 20 percent to 42 percent from last year.

That's an increase worth noting — but still a fraction of the \$217.4 billion the National Retail Federation expects shoppers to spend in total this holiday season.

Consumers like Melissa Hourigan couldn't imagine doing holiday shopping any other way.

"I was early into the online shopping thing because I hate going to the mall. Hate it," said Hourigan, whose family moved last year from San Francisco to Denver. "I get so overwhelmed by so many people. It's chaotic. You get stressed getting into the dressing room."

For the third year in a row, she'll shop in front of her home computer to avoid the mall madness, and the obligatory wait at the post office to mail gifts to far-flung relatives in Norway and Germany.

"Last year I shipped a vest, which weighed almost nothing, and paid \$45 to

have it shipped," said Hourigan, of a gift mailed to her brother-in-law in Norway. "This year I went to REI's site. They have

international shipping. I'm so excited. I don't have to worry about paying an extra \$40 for shipping... And he'll get it on time. Every year, all his gifts come late. For that, it's just awesome."

More and more consumers are catching on to Hourigan's secret — which helps explain why the pioneering online bookseller, Amazon.com, is touting the addition of jewelry, sporting goods and gourmet foods to its site.

"People are feeling more and more comfortable to buy online almost everything," said Diego Piacentini, Amazon's senior vice president of worldwide retail marketing. "It is the most important piece."

Successful catalog retailers Dell, Land's End, L.L. Bean and Pottery Barn helped create that comfort zone. Catalogers sold consumers on the convenience of shopping without leaving home and got them accustomed to buying products based only on a glossy photograph, a vivid product description

and the retailer's reputation.

Increasingly, consumers who once shopped by catalog are doing so online — taking advantage of the greater selection and targeted e-mail offers. And for the first year, online sales will surpass catalog purchases, said Carrie Johnson, senior analyst for Forrester Research.

Time is on the side of Internet retail. The more hours consumers spend online, the less likely they are to worry about their privacy and security, said Matthew Berk, research director for Jupiter Research in New York.

"Three years ago, I would buy nothing online but books or CDs because I did not trust it," said Melissa Walia, a spokeswoman for DigitalConsumer.org who lives in Palo Alto and is a self-described "wired mom."

Walia gradually moved from commodities to cashmere sweaters as she gained confidence in online commerce and learned, through friends, about offbeat destinations like Girlshop, a collection of designer boutiques that sell, say, Julie Brown miniskirts at not-quite-outlet prices.

Part of the shift in buying habits came with the birth of her son, Joseph, who, like most men, is demanding of her time and loathes to shop.

"I can do things at night, when I do have some free time," said Walia. "The baby takes up so much of my day. And taking a 7-month-old to a department store is so hard."

Retailers like Yahoo! Shopping and Shopping.com have worked to make it

see ONLINE, page 15



## Campus Security

Would like to wish everyone a safe & happy holiday!

The university will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 24 - Jan 4. Buildings will be locked, and in order to conserve energy, most lights/power will be shut off and heat will be reduced.

Anyone needing access should contact Campus Security at:

**554-2648**

## Happy Holidays!

## UNOCCC

University of Nebraska at Omaha Child Care Center

For more information or to get on our wait list call 554-3398.



# Without Chanukah, there is no Christmas

J. PARKER ADAIR

Senior staff writer

Around this time of year, many people get caught up in the "Christmas spirit." They go shopping and buy gifts to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the central figure in Christianity. But while all of these people are decorating their Christmas trees and sipping their eggnog, another large religious group is celebrating a large holiday of its own - Chanukah.

Chanukah has a history that pre-dates Christ for many generations and is actually quite important to the history of Christianity itself.

Many years ago, in the land of Judea, Syrian king Antiochus ordered the Jewish people to renounce their God and religion and worship only the Greek gods. Many people went along with the orders but a great number refused.

Judah Maccabee, along with his four brothers, formed an army to fight against the mandate. The brothers chose the name "Maccabee" for its meaning, "hammer." Eventually, the Maccabees were successful in driving out the Syrians and reclaimed their sacred Jerusalem Temple. With the Temple now littered with Greek symbols, the Maccabees wanted to clean the Temple and the project was completed on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month Kislev.

When the Temple was cleaned, Judah and his followers were finished. They wanted to light the *N'er Tamid*, the eternal light that is present in every Hebrew home. Tradition states that once the oil lamp is lit, it is not to be extinguished.

Unfortunately, there was only one small jug of oil, just enough for one day of light. However, a miracle arose, and that one small oil jug lit the lamp for not just one day, but eight.

Jews celebrate Chanukah for the victory over the Syrians and the "rededication" of the Temple. Chanukah is Hebrew for "rededication." The celebration lasts eight nights, beginning at sundown on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the Hebrew month of Kislev. Every year, it differs with the Western calendar.

Had it not been for four courageous Jewish brothers and the Maccabees army, Jesus would not have been born a Jew. And without Jesus, there is no Christmas.

And the rest is history.

Information from this article was taken from [www.holidays.net/chanukah/story.html](http://www.holidays.net/chanukah/story.html).



# The Singing Detective: great performances can't save sloppy execution

REVIEW BY MIKE MACHIAN

Staff writer

The Singing Detective is remake of a critically acclaimed 1986 mini series. This version is directed by Keith Gordon and stars Robert Downey Jr. as Dan Dark, a novelist who writes crime novels.

Dark is bedridden by a skin disease that leaves him almost paralyzed. The skin disease also causes Dark to hallucinate about his past, the present and about his novels.

The film juggles several story lines at once. The main one is Dark's reality, as a bed bound patient at a hospital where he is being treated for his severe skin disease. All the other

story lines are lived out in fever-induced hallucinations. In one of his hallucinations, Dark is living out one of his novels as the Singing Detective, a gumshoe who also fronts a rockabilly band. Another story line centers on flashbacks from Dark's past. The last one is Dark's paranoid fantasies about the world outside his hospital room.

While this seems like a good mix for an interesting non-linear movie like Pulp Fiction or Memento, all of these elements are blended together quite sloppily. The jumps between the story lines are uneven and sometimes confusing. The most interesting story line would be Dark living out of his novel, but that

element of the movie is drastically under explored.

There are several points in the movie where the cast breaks into musical numbers. Every time this happens, it is painfully obvious that the actors are lip-synching.

Problems with the plot aside, The Singing Detective has some amazing performances by some pretty big names for an independent film.

Downey Jr. himself plays two very different roles, and plays them well. As Dark, his paranoid tantrums are both frightening and sometimes amusing.

see SLOPPY, page 14



*"May the beauty of the season bring you and your family joy, peace and hope in the New Year"*

*Nancy Belck*  
Chancellor

# Handbag hot commodity in Omaha

ARIANA TAJDINI  
Staff writer

For some women, the purse is a fashion statement, one that is extremely popular in big cities. During this holiday season, handbags are a hot commodity.

Now there are stores in Omaha carrying variations of imitation designer handbags. Louis Vuitton, Burberry, Gucci and Coach are all names of the imitation handbag patterns that are hitting Omaha. Stores like Simply Scrapbooks, Harry Hines Trading Corn. and Nouvelle Eve are some of the many boutiques offering a variety of handbags in the Omaha area.

The handbags themselves range from \$15-\$100, an unbelievable price considering the real designer handbags

can be anywhere from \$200-\$900. The bags carried at these small boutiques work just as well as their more expensive counterparts.

One Web site, [www.materialgirlinc.com](http://www.materialgirlinc.com), carries some of the accessories, including handbags, that appear in TV shows such as *Sex and the City* and are seen on many celebrities.

For those of you on a budget, several Web sites offer find discounted prices on the real designer handbags; [www.stylebags.com](http://www.stylebags.com), [www.lushbags.com](http://www.lushbags.com), [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com) and [www.luxury.com](http://www.luxury.com) are all great sites to find holiday gifts for this season.

If you are looking for a great holiday gift for your loved one this season, consider buying something unique - like a handbag.

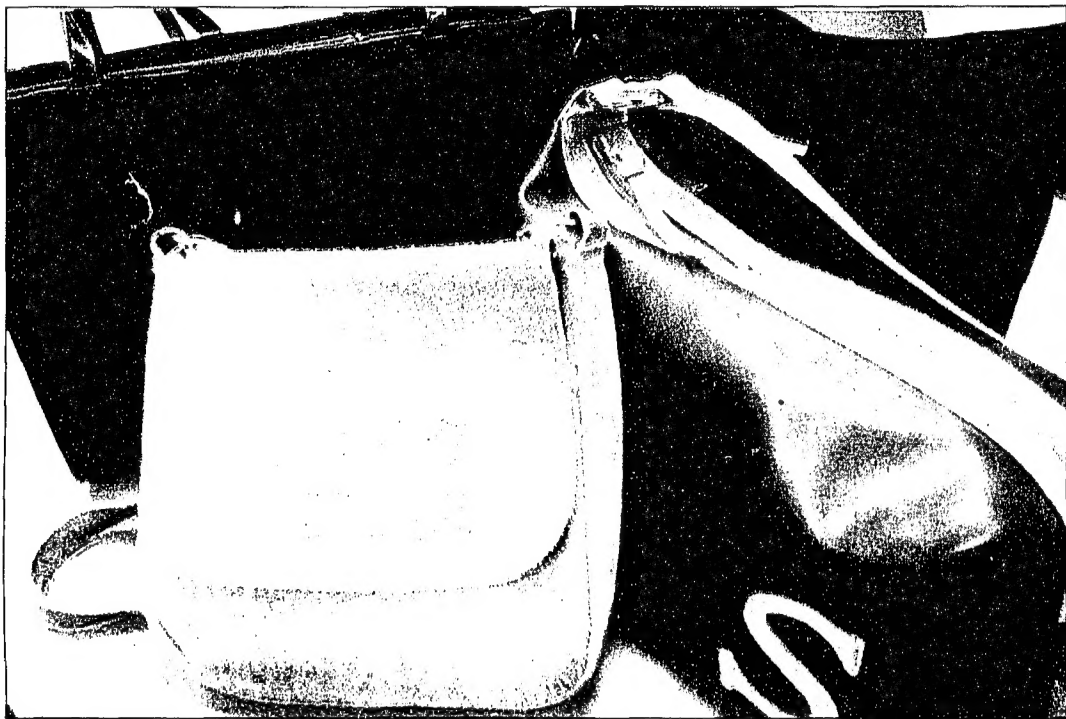


photo illustration by Josh Williamson

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392-0333

Oak View Mall  
3030 Oak View Dr.  
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### Younkers

Crossroads Mall  
7200 Dodge St.  
399-6638

Oak View Mall  
3201 S. 144th St.  
691-2300

Westroads Mall  
150 Central Park  
397-3800



## CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS



photo by Josh Williamson

Holiday decorations can be seen throughout UNO's campus. Christmas trees and holiday lights are some of the items on display. The university will close for winter break Dec. 19 and will open its doors January 12.

## Holiday Spending doesn't have to break your wallet

KIMBERLY BRYANT  
Copy editor

There is a magical time in the year that usually begins right after Thanksgiving... it's called the holiday shopping season, otherwise known as survival of the fittest. It is at this time when people begin to sharpen their claws and bear their teeth. Lines at the mall get long, people fight for parking spots and attitudes just get plain ugly. Not to mention the fact that when it's all over, many people have about 12 cents left in their banking accounts and an unmanageable amount of unnecessary debt.

However, when it comes to buying gifts for friends and family for the holidays, you don't have to sell your soul to give creative gifts that everyone will love.

Some options for gift giving include gift cards and certificates or you can get crafty and make your own. Another practical option includes hitting the dollar store to get the most for your hard-earned money.

-Gift cards: Gift cards are good mainly for their practicality, since they're spent like cash. Target, Gap, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Best Buy, Express, Hy-Vee, and Barnes and

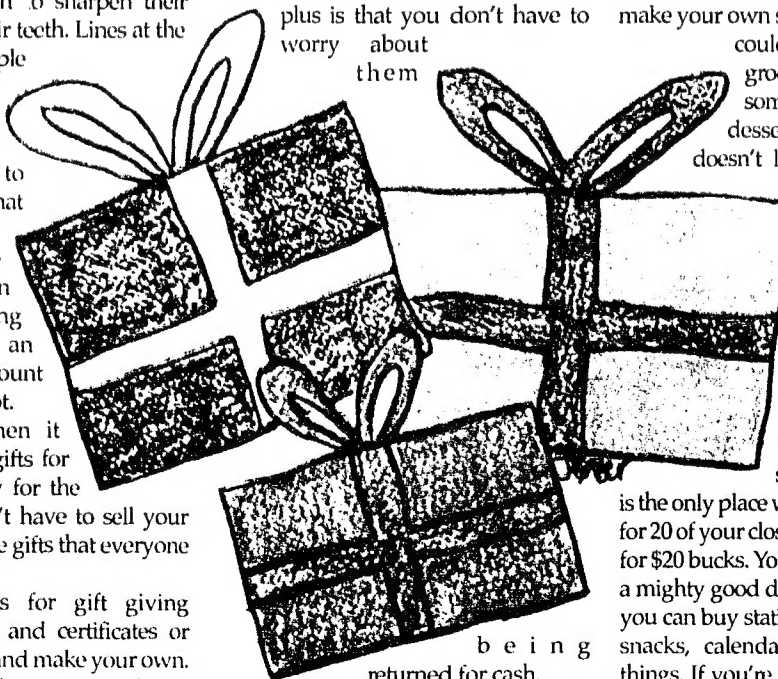
Noble all offer gift cards that can be purchased in whatever denomination you please. However, at most stores, the minimum amount that can be given in a gift card is \$5. Either way, by spending \$5 to \$10 on five friends and family members would only set you back \$25 to \$50 dollars. Another plus is that you don't have to worry about them

toasty. If you have time and you already know how to do it, then you're in luck. Yarn only runs from \$1 to \$5. However, if you were born with two left hands and you think crocheting is some kind of a dance move, stores such as Hobby Lobby, Mangelsen's and Wal-Mart sell craft kits where you can make your own soap and candles. You could even stop by the grocery store and pick up some supplies and make desserts to give. Who doesn't like something sweet every once in awhile?

-The last-ditch-I-decided-to-wait-to-the-last-minute-to-shop-and-I-spent-all-my-money-on-crap-I-didn't-need-in-the-first-place is the dollar store. The dollar store

is the only place where you can get gifts for 20 of your closest friends and family for \$20 bucks. You have to admit, that's a mighty good deal. At the dollar store you can buy stationery, picture frames, snacks, calendars and all kinds of things. If you're feeling really creative, you can buy 5-10 small items and make a nice gift basket.

So for this Christmas season, spend only one day fighting the mean old ladies, get your gifts for a minimum amount of cash and enjoy the holidays.

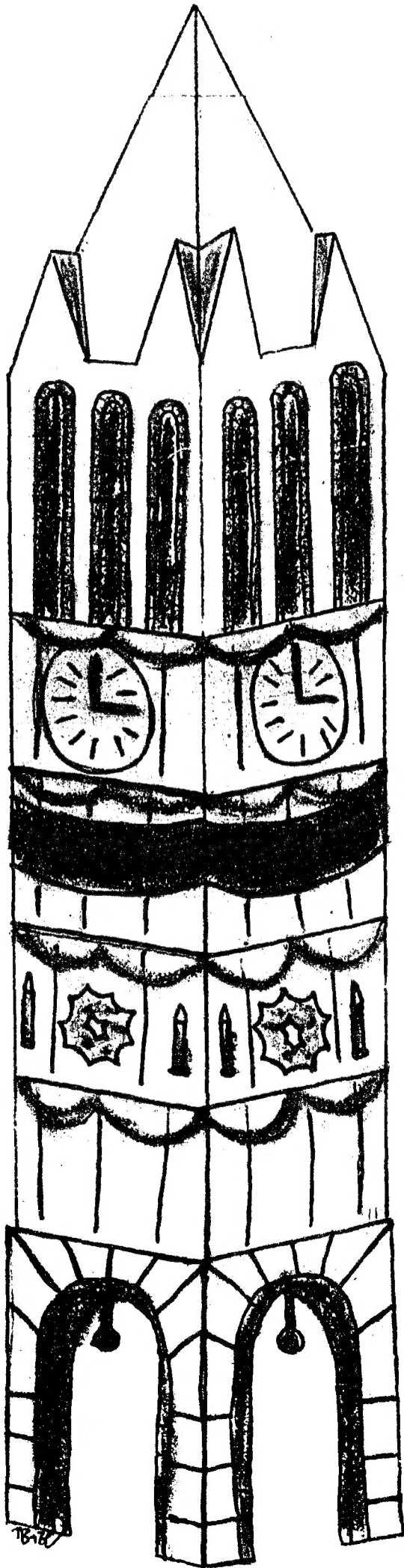


being returned for cash.

-Another way to save money on gifts is to make them yourself. One gift idea is to either knitting or crocheting items such as scarves and sweaters. It's already freezing outside, so it's practical and will keep the lucky person who gets the gift warm and



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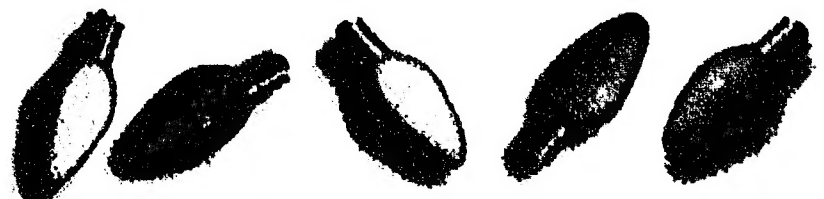
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# The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

REVIEW BY MIKE SEBBY

Staff writer

While some may disagree, I believe that J.R.R. Tolkien, the now deceased author of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, would be proud.

Peter Jackson, a somewhat obscure director hailing from New Zealand, came along with a dream a few years ago that many Hollywood execs had been mulling over for years: the film adaptation of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Being the ultimate hero's tale, it was the project of a lifetime and had astronomical potential. It was a no-brainer. It had to be done.

Yet it had to be done right.

Now, that little Aussie director with a dream has become a hero in his own right. He did the unthinkable: he took a sacred piece of literary work — one that has stood the test of time and has garnered a militant cult following — and he committed it to film, shooting all three parts of the trilogy at once. A bold move, to be sure.

Millions upon millions of dollars in ticket sales and merchandising don't lie — Jackson struck gold with the franchise and got rid of all doubts that he could pull it off. Then again, while some hopeless fanatics may never forgive Jackson for his alterations to the original material, credit must be given to the man for slaving as hard as he did. To not only keep the story and characters intact, but to capture the very essence of the books and truly understand the material that he was dealing with.

Of course, none of my rambling about the books makes any difference to those who have never so much as even considered cracking the cover of the epic trilogy in print form, so it's about time to take a look at the film itself.

The movie begins on a bit of a disturbing note. It begins with a history lesson on the origin of Gollum (a.k.a. Smeagol) and how his unhealthy obsession over the ring began. While it is



courtesy photo

pretty bleak and stomach-churning to watch, it sets the right tone for the film and better explains Gollum's strange and mysterious character. It's also crucial in helping to understand Gollum's schizophrenic mannerisms and his true antagonistic intentions that will become evident in this film.

After this bit of back story, the film launches straight back into where it left off in *The Two Towers*. Anyone who hasn't seen either of the last two films will undoubtedly be lost from the get-go, so consider them as recommended rentals before seeing this.

The movie picks right back up with the forked path of the fellowship. Frodo and Sam continue to creep into Mordor towards Mount Doom to destroy the ring while Gollum looks to destroy their friendship and steal back his "precious." Aragorn, Gandalf, Legolas and Gimli meet up with Merry and Pippin at Isengard to move on to the defense of Gondor against Mordor. So the journey continues...

If there's something I must dwell on in terms of praise, it must be the acting. Sure, the special effects are top notch and truly brought the Tolkien vision to life, but it would have been a lifeless shell had it not been for the human touch of the heart poured into each character by their respective actors. *The Return of the King* and its two predecessors are essentially character-driven movies and, as such, would not have been able to stand on their own had it not been for the dedication of the people involved in their direction.

Aragorn is the hero we all can't help but like. Viggo Mortensen once again delivers a subtle yet masterful performance in his quest to unite the men of middle earth to defend the last standing city, Minas Tirith, against the insanely large army of Mordor. Orlando Bloom shines as the graceful elf, Legolas, who seems to steal every fight scene he's in. Laughter seems to follow the gruff dwarf Gimli (played wonderfully by John Rhys-Davies) wherever he goes, whether it's on

the battlefield with his axe or off. Ian McKellen is simply incredible as the wise wizard Gandalf, who plays an enormous role in restoring hope wherever it is lost. The chemistry of actors Dominic Monaghan and Billy Boyd still goes a long way in their portrayal of the always light-hearted hobbits Merry and Pippin. With that said, it's unfortunate when the two become separated in the film, as their comic relief becomes noticeably absent as war looms closer.

Another running subplot surfaces involving the cold relationship between

Faramir (David Wenham) and his father Denethor (John Noble), the current

Steward of Gondor. For those who remember, Faramir is Boromir's little brother. He is forced to live in his brother's shadow as he is seen by his father as inferior and nowhere near as noble as Boromir ever was. The death of Boromir has twisted his father's mind, as he now holds Faramir responsible for the

slow deterioration of the eastern border of Gondor as the army of Mordor marches in. This sparks a desire by Faramir to please his father by whatever means necessary, even if it means fighting to the death to prove himself. The exchange between the two becomes interesting as the war begins to escalate.

As if the battle for Helm's Deep wasn't epic enough, the battle on the fields of Pelennor just might be one of the largest and most amazing battle sequences ever caught on film. The special effects just become mind-blowing in the sheer size of it all. The orcs, the trolls, the Nazgul, the riders of Rohan, the men of Gondor, the army of Mordor, the "oliphaunts" and everyone involved intertwining and interacting on the screen all at once is almost overwhelming at times. It's really a breath-taking sight to see this definitive battle of good versus evil—something worth the price of admission alone.

see RINGS, page 14



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## Crying on Christmas Eve

Christmastime is neat. I add the "time" at the end there because it's the season I love, not just December 25. Although dragged along to church every year of my pre-pubescent life, I wouldn't consider myself a Christian, per se. Maybe just a hopeful agnostic. So does that make my recognition of Christmas invalid?

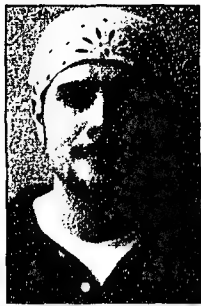
Nah. Like I said, it's the collective spirit of the holidays that captures me. It's really an amazing—and pathetic at the same time—portion of the year when the vast majority of people act a little nicer, give a little more and smile a little harder. I say that it's pathetic because I believe that this type of behavior shouldn't be limited to just one month out of the year, but it is amazing at how earnestly and whole-heartedly the collective conscience can be lifted.

Of course there are those lovely individuals who don't adhere to the moral majority during this sparkling time of the year. Nothing pisses me off more than for someone to cut you off at the mall, not hold a door open for an old lady and not take the five seconds to reach in their pocket and pull out 25 cents to give to charity. Yeah, you know what I'm talking about; those bell-ringers. The Salvation Army has over-saturated the metro area with these guys, which has tired our eyes and ears. It's too familiar, too easy to just pass them by without a second thought.

And it's there that I'll segue into the heart of this little Christmas column, which, by the way, might be the last installment of Manic Digression here at UNO (stick around, I'll explain at the end).

I'm not alone in my love for the

### Manic Digression



Josh Bashara

holidays. We all adore the snowy landscape, the smell of pine, the taste of eggnog and the joy of sitting down with friends and family by a warm fire. Who can blame you? Not me; I enjoy it just as much as the next guy. I love it all: the last-minute shopping, chatting with old friends and distant family, stringing up lights and hanging ornaments. It's just fun, relaxing and comfortable.

But you've got to remember—and I know it sounds corny as hell—that there are plenty of people less fortunate than us. If you're reading this paper, it's a fair assumption that you won't be contemplating swallowing a bottle of sleeping pills on Christmas Eve. Yeah, we're college students and by nature we're a poor bunch, but face it; we have what we need. Most of us won't be spending Christmas cold, hungry and alone.

But so may others will. It's too easy to forget that to some, Christmas is just another day. Without friends, without family, without love and without money, it's a little tough to have a Merry Christmas. We don't want these types of thoughts to tarnish our glossy holiday, but you must realize that there will be hundreds—maybe thousands even in Omaha—that will be crying themselves to sleep on Christmas Eve.

And so I implore you not to forget these people when you go home for the holidays. Whether they are homeless, financially troubled, depressed or even just lonely... remember them. By doing so, you'll probably be more inclined to drop a few quarters into those bell-ringer's kettles. You might even find it in

yourself to spend a few hours volunteering to a charitable cause.

Just please don't forget that to truly immerse yourself in the Christmas spirit, you need to give as much as you get. I promise you—in the long run, that warm feeling in your stomach goes a lot farther than an iPod.

As I mentioned earlier, this might be the last installment of Manic Digression in *The Gateway*. The university recently informed me that I won't be attending classes at UNO next semester because of a foreign language deficiency on my record. Apparently I should have paid a little more attention in my German class back in high school.

Am I bitter? Hell yeah, I'm bitter. I've pumped tens of thousands of dollars into this school—along with a quarter of my life—only to have it snatched away by a bureaucratic, unnecessary technicality. But I won't waste your time whining about the unfairness of it all. We reap what we sow.

Anyway, assuming I don't slash my wrists in frustration in the next few weeks, I'll probably be gracing UNO with my presence again in six months to a year. Until then, it's hello metro. Lucky, lucky me.

I'd be kidding myself if I thought that my column would be missed by more than four people, but whether you loved Manic Digression or hated it, I loved writing every damn word. And if you read even 100 of those words, then I love you too.

For those four people who did enjoy my column (you know who you are), you can check it out on the Web at [www.ManicDigression.com](http://www.ManicDigression.com).

Best of luck to all you next semester. Have a Merry Christmas and always remember to resist The Man.

Hugs 'n Kisses,  
Josh

## Letter to the Editor

As most of you should know by now, the Student Programming Organization is facing the demise of its existence at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. During the Student Government elections, there was a referendum of which the wording was mandated by the NU Board of Regents, regarding student fees being put towards a "speakers' program". That "speakers' program" was the Student Programming Organization. On behalf of our members I would like to ask for your support in saving SPO.

Whether the question was not understood or people just don't believe there is a need for the Student programming Organization on campus anymore is not the question. The question is why the students feel this way. For this reason we are going to be hitting the campus and passing out surveys about SPO early next semester to see what the students think.

For those of you who do not realize what SPO is all about, I will tell you. SPO is the student organization that is responsible for the majority of the entertainment on campus, all of which is free to students and staff.

SPO is in charge of bringing in comedians; musicians; magicians; games; free nights at Family Fun Center and Skateland; hypnotists; informational lectures, such as homecoming events; March Mavness; Welcome Week; free food; etc. The list could go on and on because SPO brings so many different events to this campus. The reason that we are involved with this is because we love doing what we do.

SPO is helping to make UNO a more traditional college campus. Most students come to college with the anticipation of living a normal college lifestyle. I believe that SPO plays a major role in helping students achieve that feeling.

We feel many students don't realize that even though their student fees would not go to SPO, if the vote passed, they would still be paying those student fees which would equal \$2.95 per student. By voting no, you are not saving yourself any money. The decision for you as a student would be whether you want to see quality programs offered by SPO or not.

The Student Programming Organization is a very valuable aspect of the University of Nebraska at Omaha and that is why I ask you to help us in our plan to "Save SPO". Please take the time to fill out a survey early next semester, and also to vote in the special election, which will be held mid-February. Thank you.

Amanda Sendgraff  
Campus Connections Coordinator  
Student Programming Organization

## Thoughts About Middle East News

SCOTT SUTTON

Columnist

Last month, I talked with my Arab friends Rashid and Jamal. I'd like to report that we were perched on cushions eating fresh dates, hummus with bread while listening to Arabic music beneath the stars. But I can't. We snacked on chicken nuggets while Frank Sinatra's tunes emanated from the outdoor speakers above our table. Aside from the nuggets, I was still digesting a series of articles that I'd read in the *Gulf News* while devouring a piece of pumpkin pie at Coco's a bit earlier.

The strongest words were written by a guy named Charlie, an American: "If there was an Academy Award for the dumbest and most naive idea in the world, it would go to the neo-conservative notion that it would be a simple matter to depose Saddam Hussein and replace his government with a liberal democracy."

The other bits of news that caught my eye:

Jessica Lynch tells us that the

administration lied about what had happened to her

Financier and philanthropist George Soros said that getting Bush out of office is the central focus of his life

Writer Thomas Friedman wrote: "Bush's failure to address Israel's blatant violations of international codes of conduct...has robbed the American president of any sympathetic consideration from the region that is crying for a change in the status quo."

What's the point, you ask? Well, I get a number of e-mails from ordinary folks in the Omaha area asking me questions, the most popular of which right now is: *Where are the moderate Arabs and why aren't they more vocal?* As an answer, I give you the Thomas Friedman quote above. You see, if you are a democracy and you want people to believe in you, you have to show that you are, well, democratic, right? That means playing fair, and right now, most Arabs see George W. Bush failing to chastise Israel for going where the rest of the civilized world says is way too far.

So, moderate Arabs don't trust Bush. Neither do most Americans over here. Want more evidence? Enter Jessica Lynch, heroine. If the administration lied repeatedly about Jessica's actions (not to mention the never-found weapons of mass deception), what else are they lying about?

Which is why billionaire Soros made his comment this week about getting rid of Bush. This from a man who has given

hundreds of millions of dollars over the years to oppose dictators in Africa, Asia and the former Soviet bloc. I can assure you that the applause you hear is coming from great hordes of Americans living in the Middle East—including my friend Jason, who is serving in Kuwait. A number of these are actually conservatives, so don't blame "all those liberals."

To get back to the

moderate Arabs. These would be like Rashid and Jamal. It doesn't bother them a lot that American troops are in Iraq. They like America. As I said, Jamal still follows the Denver Broncos. Sitting and drinking mint tea, Jamal said, "I'm glad Saddam's gone, but Bush can't be trusted. If Bush had taken the time to get more public

see EAST, page 15

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# Gateway

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Letters to the editor will be selected for publication on the basis of timeliness, clarity and available space. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for publication.

Letters must be signed using the writer's first and last names. Letters must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes only. Letters to the editor exceeding two typed pages will not be considered for publication.

Letters to the editor will be selected for publication on the basis

## I'll be a son of a beach: a travelogue

PAUL FREELAND

Senior staff writer

Movie sequels rarely live up to their predecessors and unfortunately, the UNO soccer team's second trip to Virginia Beach wasn't much to write home about either.

UNO earned the right for a return trip to Virginia with a 1-0 win over Northern Kentucky, quite possibly one of the best matches I've witnessed. The Mavs weren't as much of a dominant force this year as in 2002 and didn't have the momentum of an extended winning streak, but they had experience and a business-like air about them. I'll admit it, I thought this was a team that could win it all.

Gateway photographer Chris Machian and I set out Wednesday morning for our flight out of Kansas City and to no one's surprise, we were "randomly selected" for extra security checks.

One Kansas City Star and \$1.50 worth of airport crackers later, we were off to the East Coast. Detroit was a quick half-hour layover, but it was just long enough to grab a Detroit Free Press from the newsstand. As you may have noticed, I have a thing for newspapers. It's a habit I picked up from Terry Douglass, Grand Island Independent sports editor. Blame him.

We arrived in Virginia Beach late that night and, after giving Pat Robertson's smiling visage an appropriate salute, we

got to the rental car counter only to find Enterprise was out of cars. We were referred to Payless, a company that I thought only sold shoes. They gave us a champagne-colored Daewoo and Chris immediately reached for the radio, searching through the myriad of hip-hop stations in the Virginia Beach area.

The day of the UNO-Kennesaw State match started out wet and was downright soggy by kickoff. I didn't know much about the Owls and they didn't have any Sport Information people there to supply media guides or press releases, but they were second in the country and hadn't given up a goal all tournament so they couldn't be that bad.

The match started out as I expected with both teams creating some chances, but UNO had most of the play. It only figures, then, that a large dose of dumb luck put the Mavs behind. A KSU player had her shot deflected and it landed right at the feet of Alissa Saylor five yards from goal. The real horror, however, was yet to come.

Haley Fries, fleet-footed even on a damp field, beat KSU defender Patrice Rose to a loose ball only for the Trinidadian defender to launch herself, a la Ancil Elcock on Cuauhtemoc Blanco, into a two-footed tackle that broke Fries' tibia and fibula.

How a studs-up, over-the-ball challenge is only worth a yellow card is beyond me, but it was par for the course in

referee Debbie Church's world. I'd hate to see what manner of mauling one would need to pick up a red card.

Fries was carted off the field after 15 minutes or so of screaming and writhing in agony. The Mavs looked deflated after that and didn't even muster a shot on goal. The evening was made only worse when Anne Willrett re-injured her right knee in the final minutes.

While I feel for all the players, the thought of Stephanie Kirby leaving the program without a national title saddens me the most. Kirby is not only the most decorated player in UNO history and widely recognized as one of the best midfielders in Division II, she's also a genuine and kind person, not to mention one of the best interviews in my eight years as a sports writer.

The UNO parents who remained at the beach invited Chris and me out to dinner. Chris opted for a sushi restaurant instead, but I took the plunge and was regaled with stories, seafood and a few nearly obscene pictures taken on camera phones. Big thanks go out to all the parents, especially to the Tushners, Willretts, Kirbys and Frantzens.

Virginia Beach was overcast, windy and cold the entire time we were down there, but Saturday was the worst day of all. A day of shooting photos on the beach and partaking in a seafood buffet should've been a highlight, but the sub-freezing wind chill put a damper on the

fun. I spent the night flipping between watching Oklahoma lay an egg against Kansas State and LSU's domination of Georgia.

Chris, meanwhile, had sprung for his own room. Evidently I make noises akin to chainsaws scything through the Amazon rainforest while I sleep. Who knew?

The day of departure came, but snow up north in Newark, New Jersey cancelled our flight and left us in airline limbo. Enter the good people at Continental Airlines. They shuffled us over to Northwest, the folks who got us to Virginia, and we avoided the snow in the Northeast by going back through Detroit.

The extra three hours we spent at the Norfolk airport allowed me to breeze through the last three days of the Washington Post, including a very nice piece on Roma's Francesco Totti. After being accosted by a group of Frank Rijkaard look-alikes and mourning the loss of the Detroit airport's sushi bar, we were back on our way to Kansas City.

Chris' driving more than made up for our late arrival and I was back at my house well in time for Adult Swim. Overall, the trip was probably disappointing with the weather and UNO's loss, but I'm far from one to complain about being able to leave the state. Hopefully the Mavericks will be able to make the 2004 semifinals in Wichita Falls, Tex., and give me a chance to write a much happier column than this one.

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# Live Wire: Weasel Week

Hail to the victors ... those weasel scum.

Yes, it's Michigan week for UNO hockey, the week that breeds more hate than holidays with the in-laws. And why do Maverick fans hate Michigan so much? Because they are good. Because they are cocky. Because they represent all that is powerful and supreme about college sports and they sure as hell let you know about it.

And we hate that at UNO, because we work for everything we get. Michigan is ego-driven, brie-eating, executive suite ticket holding, everything an evil empire boasts. Well, excess ain't rebellion.

As Mavericks, we don't have daddy pay our education, we don't get Mercedes' for graduation presents and we work our Midwestern asses off for everything we earn. It's high time UNO, fans and players alike, show them what exactly a Midwestern beating feels like. But be classy about it. As fans, we don't want to stoop to the M-level.

One thing UNO won't have deal with is the insanely rude student section that the weasels boast at Yost. It may be one of the loudest student sections in the nation, but it's also the most annoying. The kids' mouths are so full of toilet water that even Michigan Head Coach Red Berenson requested they tone it down before he brought his grandson to a game.

After an opposing player's penalty is when it is the worst. Many fans in the country have a chant. "Skate, skate, skate ..." At UNO, the fans then yell "Sit down, hack!" Michigan students go on a tirade of four-letter words I'd be embarrassed to spout in front of my fraternity brothers, let alone at a hockey game with 6,000 other people.

What Michigan will have to deal with is a Qwest Center that will reach its highest attendance for a hockey game. And the hate, mostly that polite Midwestern hate, has been brewing for weeks.

Speaking of toilets, a thread on

## Live wire



Brian Brashaw

Mavpuck.com, a Maverick hockey fan site, begged the question "Would you rather wear a Maize and Blue hockey sweater or clean all the toilets at the Qwest Center with your tongue?"

Still its going to be Michigoon who will leave Omaha with a bad taste in their mouths because there is arguably no series (other than maybe Bowling

Green) that brings the fans and hypes the players. UNO is only 1-4-1 against Michigan in Omaha, but the only year the weasels pounded the Mavs was last year with a Frozen Four caliber team against an underachieving Maverick squad. This season Michigan is struggling and UNO is an up-and-coming young hungry squad. I'm not predicting a Maverick sweep, but the crowd alone should be good for a goal and UNO will win at least one game, mostly because Wolverine goaltender Al Montoya just isn't that good. If UNO shoots, they score.

Michigan is without the fan fave-to-hate players from earlier years. Omaha native and enemy No. 1 Jed Ortmeier is playing for the New York Rangers. Mike Comrie is two years removed and John Shounyia is out of the picture. Leading scorer Jeff Tambellini won't be there either as he is off to play for Canada in the World Junior tournament. So Michigan is ripe for the beating and as UNO coach Mike Kemp on the radio Wednesday night, "There are some new players that fans will despise with joy."

So the only thing to do now is fill the joint. If you miss this series this weekend, you'll miss Scott Parse score that "wow" goal. You'll miss Kaleb Betts. You'll miss captain Mike Lefley getting every ounce of effort from his team. And you'll miss UNO winning one of their most important games in front of the largest Omaha crowd to see a hockey game. Student tickets are only \$5 thanks to our athletic department, so you really have no excuse.

# Mav men take over York

PAUL FREELAND

Senior staff writer

York College entered the Sapp Fieldhouse on Monday with uniforms looking eerily like those of Duke University.

Any similarity between the two schools ended there, as the UNO men's basketball team rolled to an 86-46 victory over the Panthers.

Maverick Head Coach Kevin McKenna said there were two areas on which he wanted his team to focus.

"Our main goals were defense and rebounding," McKenna said. "Our guys have to focus on defense first, rebounding second and execution third, but lately we've had that backwards. You can't measure your performance on whether the ball goes in the basket or not."

Basketballs did find the bottom of the net with great frequency for the Mavs as UNO jumped out to a 20-5 lead and built up leads as large as 27 points. York's Justin McAfee made a lay-up with 36 seconds left to set the halftime score at 42-18 in favor of the Mavs.

UNO singed the nets with 58 percent shooting in the first half while York was held to a frigid 25 percent. The second half did not fare much better for the Panthers as Maverick C.J. Martin opened the half with a dunk. York was forced to call a timeout after a pair of Zac Robinson three-pointers pushed the score to 54-21.

Robinson was pleased with his teammates' start to the game after their first defeat of the season.

"We tried to come out with a lot of intensity and get back in a flow after losing to



photo by Michelle Bishop

Maverick Levy Jones (center) tries to keep the ball away from York players.

Kearney," Robinson said. "I thought we did a great job of that in the first half. It got a little sloppy toward the end, but if we come out like that the rest of the season, we're going to win a lot of games."

Ryan Curtis' lay-up at 4:19 gave the Mavs their biggest lead of the night, an 80-40 edge, and baskets from Andre Tarpley and Arthur Boults set the final score at 86-46.

Robinson and Ty Graham each led UNO (7-1) with 13 points while Tola Dada added 12 points and Tarpley added 10 more. Graham, Calvin Kapels and Randy Bland each had four assists while Bland, Kapels, Boults and Levy Jones each recorded six rebounds. Nate Harris paced York (5-8) with 11 points.

UNO will head west for their next games over the holiday break. The Mavs will take part in the High Desert Classic in Las Vegas with games against No. 7 Rollins College (5-2) and Central Washington (2-5). UNO will return to the Sapp Fieldhouse Jan. 3 to host Morningside.

## Congratulations New Emerging Leaders

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2004

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### from SLOPPY, page 7

Another good performance was turned in by one of the film's producers, Mel Gibson as Dr. Gibbon. Gibson's performance and make-up as the balding, mild-mannered psychologist were so good that most people probably wouldn't recognize him if they didn't know he was in the movie. Other notable performances are by Katie Holmes as a nurse in the hospital and Adrien Brody as a hood, who

along with his partner, appears in every story line.

Unfortunately, these performances won't be enough to save the movie for most people. Most people will be confused and frustrated with the seemingly random jumps in story line that comes together in a not too satisfying way in the end. If you are a fan of Downey Jr. or of the original mini series from which *The Singing Detective* is based, then check this one out.

### from RINGS, page 10

On the other front, however, is a battle of a smaller size. The battle of Sam and Frodo to carry the ring into Mordor at the mercy of their unstable guide, Gollum. Their friendship is put to the ultimate test as Gollum seeks to drive a wedge between the two and single out Frodo. With the ring weighing down Frodo so badly, just about anything's possible. Amazingly, actor Andy Serkis was capable of bringing so much depth to the character of Gollum that we sometimes can't help but still feel pity for him despite just how despicable he really is. Just hand him his Oscar now. Elijah Wood also displays villainous characteristics of his own in Frodo as the pressure of the ring slowly cracks his mind. Yet it is Sean Astin who is pushed to put forth a powerful performance as the lovable and courageous Samwise Gamgee, the true picture of loyalty and moral obligation to his friend in even the darkest times.

From here on, it's all a matter of everything coming together. Will Aragorn be able to reunite the men of Middle-earth and reclaim the throne of Gondor?

Will Frodo and Sam make it to Mount Doom together and destroy the ring of power? Will Gollum ever change for the better — permanently? Will the elf princess Arwen choose Aragorn over immortality? Will Faramir ever win his father's affection? Will the four hobbits ever live to see each other again in the Shire? Will anyone in the remaining eight of the fellowship die?

Will good conquer evil in the battle for Middle-earth?

Regardless of the answers, it is the spirit of the film itself that in turn asks the audience the essential question: just how courageous are you to stand up for what you believe in?

Both the books and the films carry the theme of the human spirit and how it will always stand the test of time as long as there's hope of a greater good that will come through sacrifice. It's this Tolkien philosophy that Peter Jackson kept intact that makes the films succeed and not pass over as just another shallow Hollywood blockbuster banking merely on the franchise's name to make the cash.

Yet on that note, let it be known that this particular film is a solid three-and-a-half hours. Even for the most patient movie-goer, it will have you squirming in

your seat at its sheer length (especially if you foolishly bought something to drink before the movie). The irony of it being that the actual book is the shortest of the three. This can be attributed to two things:

1. Where the storyline ends in *The Two Towers* and picks up again in *The Return of the King* are two completely different points on the timeline compared between the books and the films. This film technically picks up quite a ways before *The Two Towers* book concludes, so it had some catching up to do.

2. As short as it may be, there are too many crucial things that occur in the book that Jackson had to include most of them to avoid butchering the story. The trilogy purists would have been outraged had Jackson omitted a significant amount of it (which he was somewhat able to get away with in the first two films).

All of this ties into the flawed ending. There were at least three moments when Jackson could have faded to the credits and it would have been a satisfying conclusion to the film (and the series as a whole). But, unfortunately for him, Tolkien wrote a few more chapters beyond the actual end of the journey and final battle in following up with the main characters and neatly tying up all the loose ends (and then some). While this worked well in the books, it put Jackson in an awkward situation of trying to find a happy medium of not boring the audience to death while staying true to the book. This is one of those dilemmas where the director had to weigh his options and take a gamble with a piece of literature that didn't lend itself to a very palatable film adaptation. The end result will leave many movie-goers yawning and counting the minutes on their watches.

The above may not apply to the hardcore trilogy fans, however, as they may be pleased to see the true vision of Tolkien being fully-realized. Well, perhaps "fully-realized" is too strong a word (er, two). Jackson actually did end up having to cut out significant parts of the ending to make it the length that it is (as hard as it is to believe). I can already imagine the mixed reactions that this will spur.

All in all, *The Return of the King* is an impressive and epic film that closes the trilogy appropriately. To fans of the trilogy and average movie-goers alike, this film is quite a thrilling ride up until the poorly-paced ending. To the novel purists, this film may be frustrating in parts in terms of

Jackson's alterations to the original text, but to see the battle for Middle-earth fleshed out is really something to behold.

Regardless of what category you fall under, however, *The Return of the King* is quite a satisfying feast for the eyes and mind. Although it's perhaps not the best of the series, it offers up plenty of action and drama (and even a few laughs). There's undoubtedly something here for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you, Peter Jackson and company. It's been a fun ride.

Sebby says: As if you weren't gonna go see it anyway...

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### from ONLINE, page 6

easier for consumers to find what they're looking for.

General manager Rob Solomon said Yahoo! Shopping refined its search technology to return more relevant results when, say, a parent searches its 50 million product offerings for one of this year's hot toys such as Barbie or Swan Lake.

From a single page, consumers can view the results organized by category —

### from SCHOOL, page 1

The restructuring would be independent from ongoing efforts to create a combined College of Communication and Fine Arts.

About 650 undergraduate and graduate students are currently in the department. They would hardly be affected by the change, Smith-Howell said.

"I think this just kind of summarizes some of the things we're doing," she said. "Students aren't going to see anything dramatic."

Changes would mainly affect administration, she said. The position of chair would become that of a director, and an assistant director would likely be designated.

The establishment of a School of Communication would also increase UNO's appeal to students who are thinking about majoring in the area, Smith-Howell said. The change into a school would increase the department's visibility, Smith-Howell said, and make it easier for students to find what UNO offers.

"It illustrates that we have a range of options," she said.

Another advantage would be that a

DVD movies, computer games, dolls, tents and clothing, etc. — compare prices, then read customer comments about a merchant before deciding where to buy.

And many online retailers hope to capture more orders by offering free shipping for purchases of \$25 or more — as Amazon.com does — or pushing back delivery dates to capture last-minute shoppers. Yahoo!, for example, will feature items that can be ordered as late as Dec. 23 for delivery on Christmas Eve.

School of Communication might be more attractive to external funding than a department, she said.

If the Regents approve the restructuring Saturday, the new school could be established by fall 2004.

The developments concerning a College of Communication and Fine Arts are not quite as formalized yet.

An administrative committee composed of eight members from the different affected disciplines has been formed and is currently working on an outline for the new college, Smith-Howell said. The search for a dean for the college has been postponed until plans have been finalized.

Robert Welk, interim dean of the College of Fine Arts, has agreed to stay on for another year, which gives the committee some time to work out all the details.

Smith-Howell said the reason for the changes is that it is time for the department, which has grown much over the past, to adapt to new needs.

"We're not doing this because something is wrong," Smith-Howell said. "But that doesn't mean that things can't be better."

### from EAST, page 11

opinion on his side, and shown some real evidence that Iraq was a threat, I think more Arabs would speak out to support the Americans."

As it is, you see, these millions of ordinary Arabs still have an affection for the USA and wouldn't mind seeing some homegrown democracy to sprout over here, but they see Bush as a somewhat dishonest and hypocritical leader. Thus, they hold their tongues.

But don't think that changes aren't blowing in the wind. Nowadays, in places like Bahrain, elections are happening. Even here in the UAE, at the American University of Sharjah, largely Middle Eastern students held elections for a student council and president—a modest

step but maybe a reflection of things to come.

Another positive step is the appearance of more independent Arab TV news stations. Launched from right here in Dubai last year, Al Arabiya is now the main competition for Al Jazeera. For the first time in the Middle East, issues are debated on TV talk shows, and those opposed to their own regimes (Saudi, for example) can express their views. This, to me, is big progress.

2004 will be interesting. Some semblance of democracy is germinating in the Gulf; most Arabs will continue (hopefully) to like the U.S. if not George W., and if democracy at home in the U.S. is going to thrive, we'll need more people like Jessica and Sorros to speak out and be heard.

### from FINALISTS, page 2

College.

A professor in the UWM Department of Geography, Andrews' administrative career includes positions as associate and assistant vice chancellor of academic affairs at UWM and as a fellow of the American Council on Education at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis.

Andrews received her doctorate and master's degrees in geography from Arizona State University and her bachelor's degree in geography from Worcester State College, Mass.

A forum featuring Christensen will be held from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room. Andrews will present herself to the UNO community in a forum from 2:30 p.m. to 4

p.m. Dec. 17 in the Nebraska Room. Each forum will begin with a brief reception, followed by a question and answer session.

The position of vice chancellor for academic and student affairs was created as part of an administrative restructuring process earlier this year. It includes providing intellectual leadership for teaching, scholarship, creative work and public service, along with responsibility for the administration of all academic and student service policies and programs.

Reporting to the vice chancellor are four associate vice chancellors (research, academic affairs, student affairs and technology) and the assistant vice chancellor for diversity and first year experience as well as the deans of the colleges and the UNO library.



## CLASSIFIED ADS

### NOTICES

Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

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Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-2648. Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification

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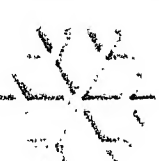
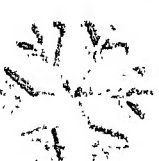
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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Next Publication of Gateway Jan. 13th.  
Have a Great Break!!



# Stay warm, busy over semester break

ANGI TYLER

Staff writer

Looking for activities to stay warm while it's cold outside?

Well, there are several activities scheduled around the state to keep you warm and entertained during semester break, but that doesn't include just staying inside.

Take advantage of this weather and visit places like Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, where activities include mountaineering, picnicking, biking and fishing.

If you're into a little adventure, check out Fontenelle Forest where you can walk 17 miles of trails on 1,400 acres of oak-hickory forest, with streams and boardwalks. You can also see the Missouri River, which overlooks the area's largest marsh wetlands with many species of birds and other wildlife.

If that's too cold for you, check out the inside gigs like the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, where activities include wildlife movies and an indoor aquarium.

There are also several musical and holiday concerts coming up.

This includes holiday music from the UNL orchestra tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Kimball Recital Hall, 11th and R Streets, Lincoln. General tickets are \$5 and students and senior citizens are \$3. On Saturday, Leon Russell, "pop music's most anonymous big shot," will have an 8 p.m. concert at the Delray Lounge, 817 R St., Lincoln. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 day of the show.

Other indoor entertainment



photo by Michelle Bishop

*A nativity scene on display at El Museo Latino. Similar pieces are offered for sale in the El Museo Latino market.*

includes a performance of the Celebration of Life Choir, Sunday at 3 p.m. at The Center, 714 S. Main St., Council Bluffs, Iowa. This event is free. Another free concert is the Holiday Concert at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Holy Family Catholic Church, 1715 Izard St.

If you are looking for a little ethnicity, check out the three-weekend holiday celebration that starts Saturday at El Museo Latino, 4701 S. 25th St. Ethnic foods and entertainment will be provided by the Latino Holiday Market. The events are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. On Saturday, the market will have sales that include artworks such as pottery, photographs and traditional tin ornaments for Christmas trees. Other events include the annual year-end performance by El Museo Latino's students of

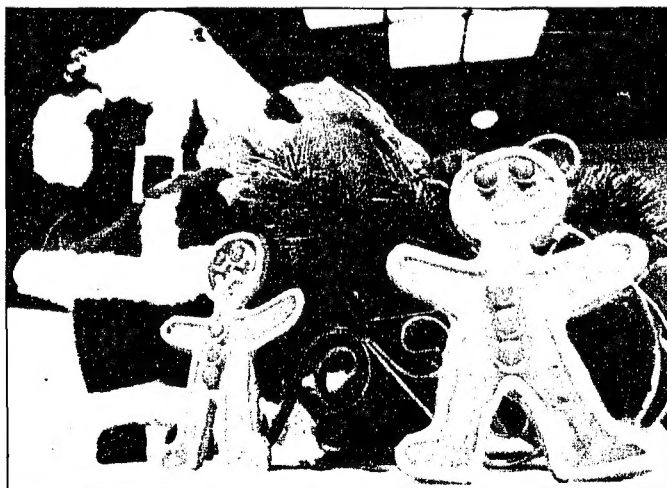
traditional folk dancing, which is scheduled for 2 p.m. Dec. 13. Admission to the holiday celebration is free. Admission to museum exhibits is \$5; students and senior citizens \$3.50; college students \$4; museum members free.

And the fun doesn't stop here.

For all you hip-hop enthusiasts, Fresh Fest is for you. "The Ultimate Hip Hop Experience," on Dec. 20th at Cartier's Night Club is expected to be the biggest hip-hop show in the Midwest. It will be held from 3 p.m. - 1 a.m. The cost is \$20.

"This is every element of hip-hop battle convention known in Omaha and it is the biggest," DJ Rip said.

Events are scheduled all over the state that cater to every person's interest. So don't let a little bit of snow keep you in. Get out and enjoy the winter break entertainment.



*Santa Claus and gingerbread men line dozens of table in the UNO Student Center Ball Room during the Campus Holiday Open House. The smell of hot apple cider enticed students and faculty into the room to enjoy fine foods and holiday atmosphere.*

photo by Josh Williamson